

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Perry House at 610 East Washington Street is a well-preserved, modest, one-and-one-half story double house in the Federal style. The less than two-story height is an unusual variation of the double house, a form constructed primarily in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries throughout New England. While the scale of the five-bay wide by three-bay deep gabled mass is suggestive of the familiar Cape form, the placement of the chimneys on the gable ends identifies it as an double house. The outbuildings connected to the modest one-story service ell are especially distinctive and large-scale, clearly conveying the property's earlier multiple uses. A sizable, five-bay, two-story, shed-roofed mass connects the service ell to the large New England barn. The barn is capped by a sizable, decorative ventilator and is augmented by a one-story, shed-roofed addition along the left-side elevation. A screened porch has been added in the re-entrant angle between the main mass and ell on the right side. Characteristic of the Federal style, decorative detailing is concentrated around the centered entry of the symmetrically fenestrated facade. A molded entablature and three-quarter sidelights frame the door. Other characteristic detailing includes wide corner boards, a wide board entablature and a narrow entablature above the windows. The house has a slightly suburban set-back on a nicely landscaped corner lot at a very busy intersection.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The intersection of East Washington and Winter streets has been developed with scattered houses since the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The mill pond (first dammed in 1716) and cotton manufactory (established in 1830) located just to the northwest would have attracted some of the settlement. White indicates this site was previously occupied by a two-story gambrel block and that this house was built for Ethan Stetson, perhaps after the death of the previous resident in 1818. Historic maps show the house was present by 1830, owned by I. or J. Perry. The property changed ownership every twenty or twenty-five years thereafter. Subsequent owners included F. Burnham (1856), T. Cushing (1879), and Captain Jonathan Chase (1903). The 1902/03 city directory lists Chase as a farmer and pigeon breeder. White indicates the barn was built in 1872, and that several owners operated stores here. Considerable discrepancy exists between the owners identified by White and those shown on the maps. Additional research is necessary to clarify the date of construction and the history of ownership.

REFERENCES

- Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830
- Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856
- Walker, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1879
- Richards, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1903
- White, Houses of Hanson

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. See NR Criteria Statement form.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
Hanson

Property Address
610 East Washington St.

Area

Form #
29

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

Individually eligible.
 Contributing to a potential district.

Eligible only in a historic district.
 Potential historic district.

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**.

This property is significant as a well-preserved example of early building patterns in the town of Hanson, in a settlement configuration distinctive to the town and probably the region. Among the best examples of its type in town, it may be individually eligible but should be evaluated for its role in potential districts when its neighbors can be examined more carefully. The property meets criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.